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Claims:

1. An elevator car (2) comprising a cover (14;40) extending over at least a portion of the top surface of the car (24), said cover being mounted on a resilient support (28;42); the car further comprising detection means (32;44) for detecting displacement of the cover corresponding to a weight exceeding a predetermined threshold being applied to the cover, the car being arranged so as to prevent normal operation if said displacement has been detected; wherein said cover (14;40) is provided on or by a retractable balustrade (12;38).
2. An elevator car (2) as claimed in claim 1 wherein said cover (14;40) and said retractable balustrade (12;38) form a single unit.
3. An elevator car (2) as claimed in any preceding claim comprising means (36) for detecting deployment of the balustrade (12).
4. An elevator car (2) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the cover (14) is rigidly attached to the balustrade (12).
5. An elevator car (2) as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the cover (40) is resiliently attached to the balustrade (38).
6. An elevator car (2) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the cover (14;40) is arranged over substantially the whole area of the top of the car (24) on which a person could stand.
7. An elevator car (2) as claimed in claim 6 comprising a cut-away portion (16) provided in the cover

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(14) to allow access to controls (18) mounted on the car top (24).

8. An elevator car as claimed in claim 7 wherein said cut-away portion does not provide access to controls for controlling movement of the car during inspection mode.

9. An elevator car (2) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the detection means (32;44) is arranged to be latched such that ordinary operation of the car is prevented until the latch is properly reset by an authorised user.

10. An elevator car (2) as claimed in any preceding claim comprising detent means (26) for preventing movement of the cover (14) unless it is properly displaced by a person clambering on it.

11. An elevator car (2) as claimed in claim 10 wherein said detent means comprises a magnet (26).